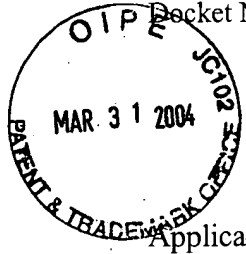


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Docket No. 97078CIPDIV1

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Johnson et al. Group Art Unit: 1714  
Application No.: 09/752,227 Examiner: Shosho, C.  
Filed: December 29, 2000  
For: **MODIFIED PIGMENTS HAVING IMPROVED DISPERSING PROPERTIES**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Sir:

Prior to the examination of the above-identified application, Applicant respectfully requests the entry of the following amendments.

**Amendments to the claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 7 of this paper.